

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant has reviewed and considered the Election/Restriction mailed on January 26, 2005.

Claims 22-41 are amended to renumber the claims as 21-40, respectively. Claims 1-40 are now pending in this application.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant respectfully requests that a copy of the 1449 Form, listing all references that were submitted with the Information Disclosure Statements filed on September, 28, 2001 and June 27, 2002, marked as being considered and initialled by the Examiner, be returned with the next official communication.

Restriction/Election

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required:

- I Claims 1-20 drawn to a method for routing medical images, classified in class 709, subclass 238.
- II Claims 21-24 drawn to a method for medical imaging application domain information conversion, classified in class 709, subclass 246.
- III Claims 25-36, drawn to a method for storage and retrieval of patient medical image data, classified in class 705, subclass 3.
- IV Claims 37-40, drawn to a method for querying a storage system using GUID and routing information, classified in class 707, subclass 104.1.

Applicant provisionally elects, with traverse, the invention of Group I (claims 1-20) directed to a method for routing medical images. The Restriction Requirement is traversed on the basis that Restriction Requirements are optional in all cases. M.P.E.P. § 803. If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits. M.P.E.P. § 803.

Applicant notes that each independent claim (claims 1, 21, 25, 32, and 37) are drawn generally to either methods or a router for routing network communications. For example, claim 1 in Group I (claims 1-20) recites "receiving a network communication . . . and forwarding the network communication according to the selected route." Moreover, Group II (claims 21-24) recites "receiving a network message . . . and forwarding the network message to the destination." Group III (claims 25-36) recites "receiving a network message . . . and forwarding the network message to the destination" (claim 25) and a router having "a computer-readable medium storing routing information mapping destinations to routes within a medical imaging network . . ." (claim 32). Group IV (claims 37-40) recites ". . . examining routing information to identify storage systems within a network . . . and selectively retrieving one of the local copies of the requested asset."

Applicant respectfully submits that in searching for references regarding claims 1-20, the Examiner will also likely be identifying references for use with respect to the other claims. Therefore, the search will not create a serious burden on the Examiner. Finally, it is submitted that Applicant should not be required to incur the additional costs associated with the filing of multiple divisional applications in order to obtain protection for the claimed subject matter.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 659-9340 to facilitate prosecution of this matter.

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR §1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS AMENDMENT Commissioner of Patents, P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 18th day of February, 2005.

Sarah L. Reinhard
Name

Sarah L. Reinhard
Signature

Respectfully Submitted,
David P. Gendron, et al.

By their Representatives,
BROOKS & CAMERON, PLLC
1221 Nicollet Avenue, Suite 500
Minneapolis, MN 55403

By: Joseph C. Huebsch

Joseph C. Huebsch
Reg. No. 42,673

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